

**641—76.6(135) Client eligibility criteria.** The certification process to determine eligibility for direct health care under the program shall include the following requirements:

**76.6(1) Age.**

- a. Prenatal program—no age restrictions.
- b. Child health care services—birth through 21 years of age.
- c. CHSC—birth through 21 years of age.

**76.6(2) Income.**

a. Income guidelines will be the same as those established for the state's Title XXI program. Guidelines are published annually by DHHS. Department income guidelines will be adjusted following any change in DHHS guidelines.

b. Income information will be provided by the individual, who will attest in writing to the accuracy of the information contained in the application.

c. Proof of Title XIX or Title XXI (HAWK-I) eligibility will automatically serve in lieu of an application.

d. All income of family members as defined by DHHS poverty guidelines will be used in calculating the individual's gross income for purposes of determining initial and continued eligibility.

e. Income will be calculated as follows:

(1) Annual income will be estimated based on the individual's income for the past three months unless the individual's income will be changing or has changed, or

(2) In the case of self-employed families the past year's income tax return (adjusted gross income) will be used in estimating annual income unless a change has occurred.

(3) Terminated income will not be considered.

f. Individuals will be screened for eligibility for Title XIX and Title XXI (HAWK-I). If an individual's income falls within the eligibility guidelines for Title XIX and Title XXI (HAWK-I), the individual should be referred to the Iowa department of human services or other enrollment source to apply for coverage. Pregnant women shall be considered for Title XIX presumptive eligibility. Children shall be considered for Title XIX eligibility to the extent these activities are approved by the Iowa department of human services.

g. An individual whose income is above the poverty level established by Title XXI and below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines will qualify for services on a sliding fee scale, as determined by the local agency's cost for the service. The department provides annual guidelines. An individual whose income is at or above 300 percent will qualify for services at full fee.

h. Eligibility determinations must be performed at least once annually. Should the individual's circumstances change in a manner which affects third-party coverage or Title XIX/Title XXI eligibility, eligibility determinations shall be completed more frequently.

**76.6(3) Residency.** Individuals must be currently residing in Iowa.

**76.6(4) Pregnancy.** An individual applying for the prenatal program shall have verification of pregnancy by an independent health provider, by the maternal health contract agency, or by a family planning (Title X) agency.

**76.6(5) Children with special health care needs.** An individual applying for CHSC services shall be determined to have a special health care need as defined by the federal MCH bureau. Children aged 0 to 21 residing in Iowa with or at risk of having a special health care need are eligible for CHSC services. Care/service coordination or other nonclinic services are provided at no charge to the family. Clinic services are provided without charge to families with adjusted gross incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline. Families above this threshold are responsible for payment according to a sliding fee scale based on tax exemptions, adjusted gross income, and extenuating circumstances.